



The Town of Barnstable

Office of Town Manager

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September 16, 2021

To: Barnstable Town Councilors

From: Mark S. Ells, Town Manager

RE: Town Manager update for period September 17 thru October 7, 2021

1. Elizabeth Jenkins, Director of Planning & Development, shall provide an update on the Local Comprehensive Plan.
2. We are proceeding with the budget action calendar for FY 2023. As noted in the Budget Action Calendar the annual joint meeting of Town Council and School Committee is scheduled for October 21, 2021. We have issued the Capital and Operating Budget Instructions to the departments and are planning for a proposed level of service budget in FY 2023. For information on our fiscal year budgets please view the Town's Open Budget website at <http://budget.townofbarnstable.us>.
3. On October 1, 2021, the Town of Barnstable asked a federal judge to dismiss a lawsuit brought by the Conservation Law Foundation ("CLF") that threatens to undermine the Town's efforts to implement a 30-year Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan ("CWMP") that will preserve and restore water quality in and around Barnstable. I stated in a press release "The Town is fully committed to protecting and improving the environmental health of the waters surrounding Cape Cod. To do so, the Town has begun investing over a billion dollars to implement its thirty-year plan to upgrade its wastewater infrastructure in order to protect Barnstable's natural resources. While we would prefer that CLF work with the Town as a partner toward achieving these important goals instead of diverting the Town's resources from these efforts, we will vigorously defend against CLF's misguided attempt to impose inapplicable federal requirements on our Town and its residents." We will keep you advised of our progress on this matter.
4. We received notice from the Department of Housing and Community Development that the Town of Barnstable has been awarded a grant for \$250,000 from the Housing Choice Communities grant program. This grant is specifically for the sewer pump station at 720 Main Street Hyannis.
5. As reported in previous Town Manager reports, I serve on the Commonwealth Community Cabinet (CCC) chaired by Lieutenant Governor Polito and attended a meeting on September 29, 2021. This cabinet provides an opportunity to convene a small group of state and local leaders for a focused conversation on the policy areas,

programs, and resources of critical importance to the Commonwealth and cities and towns. The purpose of the CCC Municipal Work Group meeting scheduled was to provide an update on CCC FY22 programming, an overview of changes to the Compact Connector and associated webpages, and to review and discuss key policy areas for state and local ARPA funds. I will keep you advised of future meetings and topics of discussion.

6. We continue to have regular conversations with Vineyard Wind (VW) regarding the status of the Phase I and Phase II VW Projects. VW continues to work with Barnstable staff regarding both Phase I & II of the project. They have commenced construction on Phase I and are proceeding with permitting on Phase II. We have continued our discussion with Vineyard Wind regarding an update to the existing Host Community Agreement (HCA) for Phase II and a potential Phase III. There is a first read before Town Council this evening for a resolve authorizing the Town Manager to execute an amendment to the existing HCA to reflect the modification of the Phase II project. There is a second reading planned for October 21, 2021. We will continue negotiation with VW as previously authorized in 2019 on a Phase III project including a discussion of the proposed landing and cable routing. We will keep you advised of our progress on this matter.
7. The Town of Barnstable's Department of Public Works continues sewer construction for the Strawberry Hill Road Sewer Expansion Project. A new gravity sewer will be installed in portions of Craigville Beach Road, Strawberry Hill Road, Wequaquet Lane and Phinney's Lane. Additionally, a new submersible pump station will be installed on a Town easement at the intersection of Strawberry Hill Road and Craigville Beach Road. Construction will be coordinated with Vineyard Wind, which will be installing a duct bank and associated utility relocations in the same area as part of its offshore wind energy Phase 1 project. Upon the completion of both projects, Vineyard Wind will resurface disturbed roadways within the project area. If you have any questions or wish to receive project updates, please contact Paul Ruzsala, P.E., Senior Project Manager, at the Department of Public Works at 508-790-6400 or paul.ruzsala@town.barnstable.ma.us. More information about the Strawberry Hill Road Project and the Town of Barnstable's CWMP is available at: <https://barnstablewaterresources.com/>. Sign up for Enews, our *Community Currents* newsletter: <https://barnstablewaterresources.com/news-updates/>
8. On October 1, 2021, I shared with the Town Council a technical report our Department of Public Works Water Supply Division prepared entitled "The Distribution and Composition of PFAS in Select Water Supply Wells and Surface Water Wells in Barnstable". This report is part of our ongoing evaluation for locations for future potential public water supply wells. The existence of PFAS in lakes and ponds is a good indicator of the levels that may exist in the surrounding groundwater and therefore is of value when conducting an evaluation of future potential water supplies. I will note that the findings of this report are under review by staff. Though PFAS may not currently have regulatory limits in surface water bodies the Town of Barnstable has lead the efforts regarding managing Emerging Contaminants and thus anticipate proceeding with measures to do so even in the absence of said regulations. We will keep you advised as we progress on this matter.